

TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS OF MEDFIELD,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1873.

FOXBORO':
THOMAS' PRINTING OFFICE.
1873.

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1872.

ELECTED MARCH 4TH, 1872.

Town Clerk.

J. B. HALE.

Selectmen and Assessors.

J. B. HALE.

B. F. SHUMWAY.

OLIVER CLIFFORD.

Overseers of Poor.

ELIJAH THAYER.

OLIVER CLIFFORD.

J. R. CUSHMAN.

Treasurer.

ISAAC FISK.

Collector.

CHARLES HAMANT.

Constables.

HINSDALE F. BULLARD.

CHARLES HAMANT.

School Committee.

JACOB R. CUSHMAN (3 years).

JAMES HEWINS* (2 years).

REV. C. C. SEWELL*.

REV. J. M. R. EATON.

WILLIAM C. ALLEN (to fill vacancy).

Auditor.

JAMES HEWINS.

Highway Surveyors.

HAMLET WIGHT (Northeastern Division).

HENRY F. WIGHT (Northwestern Division).

CHARLES H. RUSSELL (West Centre Division).

A. B. PARKER (East Centre Division).

RICHARD COLE (Southwestern Division).

CALEB S. HAMANT (Southeastern Division).

Firewards.

J. R. CUSHMAN.

T. L. BARNEY.

H. F. BULLARD.

Field Drivers.

JOSIAH F. CHASE.

PHINEAS FROST.

Pound Keeper.

GEORGE D. HAMANT.

Fence Viewers.

ELIJAH THAYER.

FRANCIS D. HAMANT.

THOMAS S. CLARK.

(Appointed by Selectmen.)

Measurer of Wood, and Sealer of Weights and Measures.

T. L. BARNEY.

Weighers.

T. L. BARNEY.

WILLIAM CRANE.

Police.

C. T. FROST.

R. W. SHERMAN.

* Resigned.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN OF MEDFIELD,
FEB. 1ST, 1873.

Fellow Citizens: — The year just closed has been one of progress in the right direction, and of more than usual interest to all who have the welfare of the town at heart. A kind Providence has spared us from pestilence and fire, while both these calamities have been around us, spreading sorrow and disaster. We have been very free from intemperance and crime, or disorders of any kind, showing the wisdom of not allowing the sale of intoxicants in our midst.

Through the munificence of Geo. W. Chenery, Esq., we have been the recipients of a building for town purposes, second to none for a town of our size in the Commonwealth, an ornament to our village, and we trust will prove as useful as ornamental.

We feel ~~compelled~~ to congratulate the trustees, Isaac Fisk, Esq., Charles Hamant, Esq., and the Hon. E. P. Carpenter, for the very faithful and efficient manner in which they executed their trust, and the success that crowned their efforts in providing a building displaying so much taste and architectural beauty, combined with room for the uses of the town, and space that will ere long be occupied and a source of income.

Our schools, under the efficient management of the school committee, have been prosperous and successful, as their able report will show.

Our expenses have been unusually large, showing "progress" into debt, and we would call your attention to amounts expended for roads and bridges, reinsurance caused by the Boston fire, new hearse, new hose for engine, land bought for poor farm, public library, etc. We cannot regard the money expended for these purposes as in any sense lost or squandered, as it has been made for improvements long needed, and for the benefit of the present, as well as future generations. We are happy to record that a free public library is just starting, and that the town unanimously seconded the private generosity of Deacon George Cummings, by voting to provide a suitable place in the town building, ready in all respects for the reception of the books. This expense we regard as eminently wise, the effects of which, on young and old, cannot be overestimated.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Our attention was drawn to this subject early by the washing out of the stone bridge in Main street, near the house of Rev. C. C. Sewall. The road at this place being very narrow, it was deemed advisable, while rebuilding the bridge, to extend it so as to widen and improve the road. Mr. Sewall very generously gave us all the land required beyond the brook, and on the east side, requiring about one rod of land of Charles Hamant, Esq. We satisfied him by the payment of ten dollars.

PHILLIPS STREET.

The town appropriated five hundred dollars for the widening and improvement of this street.

Most of the widenings were on land of Daniels Hamant, Esq., and he very generously gave all the land needed, with the simple condition of moving and laying up the walls. We were able to finish up by exceeding the appropriation some thirty-five dollars, and as that amount of work was done where highway work was needed, the excess was taken from the money appropriated for highways.

We believe all the petitioners are satisfied with the improvement of this street, and we think it far better for the town to improve our roads in this way than to have commissioners called on and make extensive and costly changes.

Foundry street needs some grading from Phillips street to the bridge. The bridge having been complained of as being narrow and unsafe, was examined, and we deemed it best to widen some six feet, raise the roadway to make it high enough to drain water each way from the bridge, and to new plank, all of which has been done, and a good railing put up. The road from Foundry street to Main street, which was unfinished at our last report, was completed last spring, and the name transferred (as per vote of the town) from old Mt. Nebo street to the new one, and boards erected, notifying, "Not a town way," on the old street.

NORTH STREET.

At the March meeting the town voted to accept the doings of the selectmen as regards this street. The improvement was commenced in good season and let out in three sections, two of which have been completed and accepted, the middle one being still unfinished by the contractor.

NEW STREET.

The selectmen received June eleventh from the County Commissioners, plan and profile for the building of the road from Main street to South street petitioned for, by Luther Guild and others, with orders to build the road within one year from June 1st, 1872.

We sent at once to see the chairman and induce him to put off building the road for another year; but his reply was: "We have had it on our hands for three years and want to get rid of it," and hoped we would build a good road, etc. etc. Finding we could not postpone the matter, and following the precedents of previous boards, we proceeded to advertise and let out the

road in the way thought to be best for the interest of the town, in accordance with plan, profile and orders sent us, and to the acceptance of the commissioners. The contractor was prompt and energetic, and in three months time had the pleasure of having his work accepted by the Hon. Board (who were accompanied by their engineer) without finding the least fault; but on the contrary, bestowing much praise. The road, although the first cost was high, has proved by the use already made of it that it was an improvement needed, as has long been contended by the petitioners; and that the price was not high is proved by the fact that the three parties bidding, who would be able to carry out any contract they might make, differed only some two or three hundred dollars in their bids, and the road was let to the lowest bidder of the three in accordance with our advertisement.

In our last report we mentioned the necessity of something being done at and near Dearth's bridge. As our outlays have been heavy this year, we have allowed this matter to go over to another year, and would respectfully call the attention of the incoming board to this subject. We have quite a stock of new bridge plank on hand for use whenever needed.

GUIDE BOARDS.

In pursuance of chap. 45, sect. 2, of the Gen. Statutes, we report guide boards maintained as follows: Main and Cedar Hill, Main and Mt. Nebo, Main and South, Main and North, Main and Causeway, Main and Bridge, Bridge and West, West and West Mill st., West and Railroad, Railroad and Canal, North and Farm, North and Railroad st., Causeway and Orchard, South and Phillips, South and Curve, South and Elm, South and High, High and Granite st., High and Plain, Phillips and Foundry, Phillips and Elm, Foundry and Mt. Nebo.

We recommend a guide board at the junction of Main and the new street, and the name of Spring street to the new road from Main to South street.

Bound posts have been set up on Mt. Nebo street, North street, the avenue, and the new street.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

As authorized by vote of the town, we sold and conveyed the old engine house, and by request of the trustees, we expended the money in fitting up our present fire department, and in such fixtures needed in the building as had not already been supplied by the trustees. The items of this account will be found below. We now have a fine fire company of some thirty members, composed of the best material, and ready to respond at any time their services may be needed. The one hundred and fifty feet "new hose" just procured, gives us so much that we can rely upon in case of fire, and with the amount of old hose on hand, if kept in working order, we are fairly equipped. The old having been in use so long, is liable to give out at any time, and another one hundred and fifty feet of new is in every respect desirable, if we are to have the full protection our engine is capable of affording.

To cash received from sale of old engine house,	\$600 00
By H. F. Bullard's bill, engine room,	\$61 02
Haley, Moore & Co., bill, pulpit,	65 33
Clark & Letherbee, bill lumber, engine room,	114 92
Earth closet,	30 00
I. Fisk's bills,	13 39
S. J. Spear, bill printing dedication,	9 25
Lamps for ante-rooms, entrance, etc.	28 04
H. F. Bullard, bill,	45 55
Bill blinds, inside,	43 50
1 step ladder,	2 75
Express,	4 40
<i>Carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$418 15

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$418 15
Lowell Babcock, painting,	22 43
Freight and carting lumber,	8 25
Souther's bill, table and chairs, engine room,	18 00
H. F. Bullard's bill,	16 84
Lowell Babcock, painting blinds,	12 00
Extra keys for town house,	2 30
Time and expense on this fitting up,	12 00
Table, town office,	22 00
Swivel chair,	10 00
Hat tree,	8 00
Parker's express, 12 keys, engine room, \$3.25 ;	
7 spittoons, \$9.75,	13 00
T. L. Barney, 160 feet rope for hose tower, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$,	3 60
Register to put in engine room,	3 00
Inkstand and table furniture,	10 40
Paid into town treasury	20 03
	<hr/>
	\$600 00

The town house being left in charge of the selectmen, the following report of receipts and expenditure (in part) are made:

To cash from letting hall,	\$107 10
" C. T. Frost, rent,	16 00
	<hr/>
	\$123 10

Cr.

By kerosene,	\$1 44
C. T. Frost, work and care of house,	55 47
Pooler, " "	7 25
T. L. Barney, sundries,	5 57
Cash in hand,	53 37
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	\$123 10

We present the following report of receipts and expenditures, as taken from the treasurer's book.

RECEIPTS.

To balance in treasurer's hands Feb. 1st, 1872,	\$1,794 19
Taxes for the year 1869,	57 40
“ “ 1870,	265 00
“ “ 1871,	1,546 00
“ “ 1872,	8,777 79
Cash of West Roxbury Board of Pauper, Overseers of the Poor,	191 23
Corporation tax,	212 31
Balance of State and corporation, 1871,	769 95
State aid to pensioners,	113 29
B. F. Shumway, land warrant (H. Leland),	256 00
Hay sold from cemetery,	68 00
Interest on school fund,	5 00
State treasurer's income on do.,	229 80
County treasurer's dog tax,	133 00
Selectmen, unexpended money from sale of en- gine house,	108 87
Money borrowed,	20 03
	9,284 66
	<hr/>
	\$23,832 52

EXPENDITURES.

TOWN OFFICERS.

By J. B. Hale, town clerk,	\$18 00
“ selectman and assessor,	145 00
B. F. Shumway, selectman and assessor,	100 00
O. Clifford, “ “ “	78 00
James Hewins, school committee,	15 00
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	\$356 00

NOTES AND INTEREST.

C. Hamant,	interest,	150 69
Mrs. Grant, notes and	"	750 63
Geo. H. Shumway,	"	10 50
Wm. Crane,	"	7 70
Franklin Ellis, part note,	"	117 50
Charles Russell,	"	30 00
Clarrisa Wight,	"	7 00
A. W. Cleveland,	"	28 00
Geo. Fisk,	"	14 00
John Sullivan, notes,	"	933 83
Eunice H. Chenery, annuity,		600 00
Mary P. Phillips, interest,		35 00
O. Clifford, note and interest,		2,382 49
Prudence Lovell, interest,		16 85
Cash paid as interest, no name,		5 07
R. A. Battelle, interest,		70 00
Martin Bailey, interest,		3 50
Trustees public library,		286 70
B. Chenery, as interest,		70 00
		<hr/>
		\$5,519 56

STATE AND OTHER TAXES.

By Walpole tax,	\$4 14
Medway tax,	10 10
State tax,	1,200 00
State aid,	240 00
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\$1,454 24	

PRINTING.

By W. H. Thomas, 400 town and school reports,	\$55 00
S. J. Spear, printing,	6 00
Advertising road,	3 00
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\$64 00	

INSURANCE.

By South school-house,	\$22 00
Town house, five year stock company,	150 00
Centre school-house, five year stock company,	75 00
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	\$247 00

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

By Tyler Thayer, 24 street boards,	\$12 00
J. B. Hale, recording births, marriages and deaths,	8 64
Express,	25
Lowell Babcock, painting guide boards,	4 20
B. J. Babcock, return of deaths, 1871,	1 00
D. D. Curtis, use of hall one year,	20 00
Paid for rattlesnakes,	4 00
Charles Hamant, care school fund,	5 00
Trustees of Chenery fund, balance of appropriation,	500 00
Martin Bailey, in full, collector 1867 and 1868,	15 00
Hearse,	520 00
Transportation of same,	6 00
Duster, sponge and chamois,	4 75
C. T. Frost, cleaning up town house,	27 00
Post G. A. R., hall for town meeting,	5 00
Martin Bailey, collecting tax 1869, in full,	13 61
Coal for town house,	16 33
Wm. F. Abell, care town clock to Feb. 1st, 1873,	26 04
Bickford, opening safe, keys, lock, and making keys,	15 55
Coal for town house,	20 45
Wm. Q. Fisher, wood, town house,	3 00
Wheeler's express,	1 40
J. B. Hale, deeds and legal advice,	10 75
“ stationery and postage,	13 06
Express and travelling expenses,	20 10
Coal for town house,	11 25
I. Fisk, bill sundries,	29 93
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\$1,314 37

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

HIGHWAY.

By C. H. Russell,	\$196 35
Hamlet Wight,	171 48
H. F. Wight,	147 44
C. S. Hamant,	128 52
A. B. Parker,	100 00
R. Cole,	177 20
H. T. Billings,	20 00
J. B. Hale,	64 68
Repairing scraper,	2 75
J. B. Hale, Foundry street bill,	24 12
R. W. Sherman, " "	20 60
C. H. Russell, removing snow,	15 40
N. S. Cutler,	151 60
J. B. Hale, Phillip street,	500 00
Land damages, North street,	612 00
Surveying, " "	8 00
Building in part, " "	630 00
H. T. Billings, new road,	4,700 00
J. B. Hale, posts for new road,	37 10
" nails,	7 15
Labor and carting,	77 60
Fencing boards,	96 00
C. H. Russell, work on Sewall's Bridge,	88 60
R. W. Shuman, " " "	67 65
O. Clifford, " " "	17 25
C. T. Frost, " " "	1 50
H. F. Wight, cover stone,	1 00
Wm. Kingsbury, keeping lantern,	2 00
A. B. Parker, six loads of stone,	6 00
Leatherbee Brothers, plank,	47 85
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	\$8,119 84

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

By abatement for the year 1870,	\$2 00
“ “ “ 1871,	2 00
“ “ “ 1872,	89 21
	<hr/>
	\$93 21

SCHOOLS.

By L. E. Packard, teaching,	\$416 00
W. L. Whittemore, “	675 00
Esther Emerson, “	211 00
Carrie Frost, “	17 50
S. D. Austin, “	296 00
A. A. Ellis, “	296 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,911 50

CARE SCHOOL-HOUSES, FUEL, AND REPAIRS.

CENTRE DISTRICT.

By coal,	\$140 96
T. H. Bingham, care of house,	5 75
E. Rhodes, “ “	9 00
F. A. Frost, “ “	12 00
W. L. Whittemore, ink,	2 00
“ “ books, crayon, etc.,	20 30
L. Guild, for wood,	5 25
J. E. Bullard, graining,	2 00
S. R. Maker, repairs,	50
D. Hoisington, stock and work,	24 78
L. Babcock, repairing glass,	2 05
	<hr/>
	\$224 59

NORTH DISTRICT.

By J. Allen, care of house,	\$18 80
F. S. Allen, sawing wood,	6 75

By W. Q. Fisher, wood,	\$21 00
H. Wight, "	27 75
C. F. Bruce, sawing wood,	8 25
G. Davis, repairs,	8 80
Repairing globe,	1 00
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	\$92 35

SOUTH DISTRICT.

By G. M. Gilmore, care of house, sawing wood and repairs,	\$32 45
A. A. Ellis, care of house,	6 00
F. Ellis, wood,	14 00
G. W. Kingsbury,	16 25
R. Pope, cleaning clock,	1 25
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	\$69 95

By Ginn Brothers, books,	\$62 51
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ALMSHOUSE DEPARTMENT.

By Dr. J. H. Richardson,	\$20 00
J. McMillan, mending staple,	75
Insurance, personal property,	20 00
Geo. Davis, moving barn,	5 00
Charles H. Russell, moving barn,	8 00
E. Thayer, corn barn,	20 00
Wm. Adams, two months' service to April 1st,	50 00
Charles Russell, yoke of oxen,	185 00
A. Kelly, one day papering,	2 50
T. L. Smith, cow,	40 00
Asa Clark, two cows,	65 00
Plough and points,	25 70
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<i>Carried forward,</i>	\$441 95

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$441 95
By I. Fisk, mdse.,	253 28
Joel Morse, hauling logs,	33 00
Wm. C. Allen, cow,	60 00
Coal,	10 25
S. R. Maker, two stoves,	17 00
“ “ “ air-tight,	2 50
D. D. Curtis, sawing lumber,	22 96
Reuben Chenery, grain,	5 17
Geo. Fisk, land,	400 00
interest and taxes on land,	17 20
E. W. Wheeler, express,	1 40
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	\$1,264 71

PAUPER EXPENSES OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

By Mrs. John Hayford,	\$54 00
Dr. Gale,	5 00
Mary Peters,	100 00
J. W. Coltman, Worcester,	184 25
Mrs. Hunt, paid Holliston,	21 00
Sarah A. Goodall,	4 58
Henrietta Taylor, paid Charlestown,	12 00
E. W. Wheeler, going for pauper,	4 00
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	\$384 83

CEMETERY.

By Joseph Clark, labor,	\$31 31
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FIRE DEPARTMENT.

By C. S. Hamant, wood,	\$2 50
C. T. Frost, labor, oil, and six spanner belts,	22 41
“ moving and fixing engine,	8 24
Hunneman & Co., repairing hose,	12 75
“ “ new hose,	243 75
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	\$289 65

PUBLIC LIBRARY (in part).

By coal for drying plastering,	\$9 33
Carting sand and laths,	1 50
One cask of lime,	2 00
Wm. Abell, lathing,	9 00
D. Hoisington, labor and materials,	30 36
H. P. Bruce, mason work,	41 40
O. Clifford, lumber, lime, cement, sand, etc.,	53 59
Jonathan G. Wight, lumber, labor and freight,	130 95
H. M. Parker, stove, soapstone, expressing, etc.,	28 95
L. Babcock, painting,	10 47
Job F. Bailey, doors, locks, etc.,	36 37
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	\$353 92

RECAPITULATION.

By town officers,	\$356 00
Notes and interest,	5,519 56
State and other taxes,	1,454 24
Printing,	64 00
Insurance,	247 00
Incidental expenses,	1,314 37
Roads and bridges,	8,119 84
Abatement of taxes, 1872,	93 21
Teaching,	1,911 50
Care Centre school-house, fuel, etc.,	224 59
“ North “ “	92 35
“ South “ “	69 95
Ginn Bros., bill of books,	62 51
Almshouse department,	1,264 71
Pauper out of almshouse,	384 83
Cemetery,	31 31
Fire department,	289 65
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<i>Carried forward,</i>	\$21,499 62

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$21,499 2
By Public library,	353 92
	<hr/>
	\$21,853 54
By balance in treasury,	1,978 98
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	\$23,832 52

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN AS REPORTED BY THE
TREASURER, FEBRUARY 1, 1873.

Trustees School Fund,	\$1,801 19
George H. Shumway,	160 00
Trustees Ministerial Fund,	471 00
Stephen Turner,	300 00
Caroline B. Phillips,	500 00
Prudence Lovell,	170 00
William Crane,	110 00
Franklin Ellis,	150 00
Charles H. Russell,	700 00
A. W. Cleveland,	400 00
Cynthia M. Clark,	100 00
George Fisk,	700 00
Mary C. Keith,	500 00
Clara Wight,	100 00
Martin Bailey,	50 00
M. P. Phillips,	500 00
Cally Hartshorn,	100 00
Benjamin Chenery,	2,000 00
John Sullivan,	600 00
Louisa Grant,	200 00
B. F. Shumway,	300 00
R. E. Sherman,	175 00
Handet Wight,	200 00
	<hr/>
<i>Carried forward,</i>	\$10,287 19

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$10,287 19
Trustees public library,	513 40
Polly D. Russell,	100 00
John Battelle,	300 00
William S. Tilden,	2,125 00
A. C. Ross,	300 00
Luther Guild,	300 00
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	\$13,925 59

RESOURCES.

Balance in treasury February 1st, 1873,	\$1,978 98
Due from tax of 1869,	96 00
“ “ 1870,	94 85
“ “ 1871,	83 63
“ “ 1872,	1,980 03
Note of hand, Abijah Partridge, 2d,	603 10
Due for State aid,	240 00
Due from West Roxbury,	191 07
Cash in hand from town house,	53 37
	<hr/>
	\$5,320 03
Liabilities exceed resources,	8,605 56
Excess last year,	4,557 23
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Increase of indebtedness this year,	\$3,848 33

PROPERTY BELONGING TO TOWN AND NOT AVAILABLE TO PAY DEBTS.

Town house,	\$28,000 00
Fire apparatus,	1,000 00
Town farm,	5,000 00
Personal property at town farm,	2,166 95
Three school-houses,	6,000 00
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<i>Carried forward,</i>	\$42,166 95

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$42,166 95
Weights and measures,	100 00
Hearse, and old hearse and house,	550 00
Road scraper and tools,	50 00
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	\$42,866 95

J. B. HALE,
 B. F. SHUMWAY,
 OLIVER CLIFFORD,
Selectmen of Medfield.

MEDFIELD, February 1st, 1873.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above accounts and the vouchers therefor, and find the same correct.

JAMES HEWINS,
Auditor of Accounts.

REPORT

[OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ALMSHOUSE, FEB. 1, 1873.

2 oxen, \$200.00; 7 dairy cows, \$300.00,	\$500 00
1 beef cow, \$60.00; horse, \$150.00,	210 00
1 swine, \$20.00; 31 fowls, \$26.00,	46 00
2 ducks, \$1.50; express wagon, \$100.00,	101 50
Covered wagon, \$45.00; ox do., 30.00,	75 00
9 tons English hay,	225 00
12 " meadow "	180 00
1 " oat straw,	20 00
2 " corn husks,	14 00
Hay cutter; feed box,	7 50
8 forks, \$7.50; 2 potato diggers, \$1.25,	8 75
60 bushels corn, \$60.00; post and rails, \$50.00,	110 00
1½ bushel beans, \$4.50; 400 pounds pork, \$50.00,	54 50
100 pounds ham, \$12.00; 25 pounds lard, \$4.20,	16 20
50 lbs. butter, \$15.00; 100 bush. potatoes, \$100.00,	115 00
30 bushels small potatoes,	9 00
Turnips, beets and cabbages,	4 00
5 barrels apples, \$12.50; 3 barrels cider, \$9.00,	21 50
4 tubs, \$5.00; 1 brass kettle, \$5.00,	10 00
3 beef barrels, \$4.50; 3 stone jars, \$1.50,	6 00
1 cooking-stove, \$22.00; 1 air-tight, \$6.00,	28 00
2 stoves, \$17.00; churn, \$7.00,	24 00
37 milk pans, \$9.00,	9 00
<i>Carried forward,</i>	\$1,794 95

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$1,794 95
Lumber, \$28.00; clothes wringer, \$9.00,	37 00
1 grindstone, \$12.00,	12 00
5 hoes, 1 iron bar,	3 00
4 ploughs, 1 cultivator,	30 00
Harness, \$16.00; hay wagon, \$50.00,	76 00
2 ox-carts,	30 00
1 roller, \$2; wood saws and horses, \$3,	\$5 00
1 cross-cut saw,	4 00
Saw, shave, and rake,	3 00
6 grain bags, \$1.50,	9 50
4 scythes, 4 snathes, 4 axes,	8 00
2 cranberry rakes and screens,	6 00
3 chains, 75; 3 draft chains, \$2,	2 75
2 ox-yokes, \$5; 1 sled, \$4,	9 00
1 mowing machine,	50 00
1 harrow, 3 ladders,	11 00
1 bog hoe and pick,	1 50
4 shovels and spade,	4 50
1 crome and muzzles,	1 75
1 adze,	75
2 hammers, beetle and wedges,	2 50
15 cords of wood, \$3½ per cord,	52 50
3 machines, 3 augers,	3 50
2 water pots, 1 pruning knife,	3 75
4 butter boxes, 1 bowl,	3 00
3 cider bbls., 3 kegs,	3 00
2 corn cutters and rake,	2 00
12 flour barrels,	1 50
4 bushels meal,	3 50
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	\$2,166 95
Amount of the same last year,	2,047 65
	<hr/>
Value increased this year,	\$119 30

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash paid treasurers,	\$212 31
Calves sold,	68 01
Potatoes "	20 10
Bull "	27 00
Eggs "	61
Board and lodgers,	79 35
Lumber sold,	43 56
Swine "	91 50
Hay "	35 77
Milk "	259 60
Apples "	38 95
Poultry "	5 78
Team work,	2 50
Cranberries sold,	25 00
Sundries,	3 24
	<hr/>
	\$913 33

PAYMENTS.

By amount paid by treasurer,		\$1,264 71
Groceries	paid by overseers,	54 06
Labor,	" "	203 03
Medicine,	" "	5 50
Two brooms,	" "	1 90
Painting,	" "	17 50
Scraper,	" "	16 60
Harness,	" "	7 50
Butchering,	" "	2 50
Seed,	" "	8 90
Grain,	" "	93 28
Tools,	" "	12 15
Repairs,	" "	31 80
		<hr/>
<i>Carried forward,</i>		\$1,719 43

<i>Brought forward,</i>		\$1,719 43
By cash to inmates,	paid by overseers,	9 25
Clothing,	" "	14 28
Fish,	" "	59 43
Baker's bread,	" "	14 11
Pails, dishes, baskets, etc.,	" "	8 79
Sundries,	" "	20 42
Elijah Thayer, as Overseer of Poor,		30 00
O. Clifford, " " "		20 00
Cash in hand to pay to treasurer,		20 24
		<hr/>
		\$1,915 95
By amount due Wm. P. Hewins,		136 72
" " T. L. Barney,		236 15
" " Wm. Adams, keeper,		333 33
		<hr/>
		\$2,622 15
By receipts,		913 33
		<hr/>
		\$1,708 82
By resources,		794 17
		<hr/>
		\$914 65

Average number of paupers, 6.

" cost per week, \$3, nearly, at almshouse.

RESOURCES.

Note, E. Partridge, 2d,	\$603 10
Due from West Roxbury,	191 07
<hr/>	
\$794 17	

Pauper expenses out of almshouse, \$384 83.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIJAH THAYER,
OLIVER CLIFFORD,
J. R. CUSHMAN,

Overseers of the Poor.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

DEATHS IN MEDFIELD FOR THE YEAR 1872.

NAME.	AGE.	DISEASE.	PLACE OF BIRTH.
Nathaniel T. Allen,	19	Typhoid Fever.	Medfield.
George E. Cromwell,	24	“ “	Mercer, Me.
Robert Roberts,	71	Dropsy,	Plymouth.
Amy P. Sewall,	69	Apoplexy & Paralysis.	Medfield.
Margaret B. Fisk,	73	“ “	Wilton, N. H.
Harriet Adams,	78		Claremont, N. H.
Louis W. Rhodes,	18	Typhoid Fever.	Medfield.
Charles Clark,	77	Heart Disease. *	Unknown.
Lena Dyer,	2 mós.		Medfield.
Charles Newell,	78	Consumption.	Dover.
— Lambert,	1 day.		Medfield.

Number of births, 26, — boys, 12; girls, 14. American parentage, 20; foreign, 6.

Deaths recorded in 1872, 11. American parentage, 11.

Marriages “ “ 7.

Intentions of marriage, 7.

J. B. HALE,
Registrar.

STATISTICS.

“ Area of town, 9,205 acres.”

Land taxed, 8,138 acres.

1,067 acres water, roads, and untaxed.

Valuation of real estate, \$610,696; valuation personal estate \$353,514. Total valuation, \$964,210.

Rate of taxation, \$11.50 on \$1,000.

State tax, \$1,200.00. County tax, \$816.74.

Town grant, general purposes, \$5,000; schools, \$2,100; highways, \$1,200. Total, \$8,300.

Number of polls, 308; dwelling-houses, 229; horses, 172; cows, 390; oxen, 34; swine, 70; sheep, 1.

Whole number resident tax-payers, 360; 119 pay poll only; 48 pay from \$2 to \$10; 66 from \$10 to \$25; 74 from \$25 to \$50; 38 from \$50 to \$100; 12 from \$100 to \$300; 2 from \$300 to \$1,000; 1 pays over \$1,000.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FOR 1872-3.

THE present Chairman of the school committee of the town of Medfield was placed upon the board after the close of the spring term, and having prepared the report of the committee, he received a communication from Rev. C. C. Sewall, for many years chairman of the board, only parts of which need here be given, inasmuch as it touches upon points already introduced. He says "the spring term of the several schools commenced under highly favorable circumstances." He then gives a high encomium to the present teacher of the High school; speaks of the difficulties he encountered; his success in overcoming them, and of the "examination at the close of the (spring) term, (which) evinced a measure of attainment in knowledge and of improvement in deportment, creditable alike to the scholars and their teacher." A good report is also given of the other scholars in town for the spring term.

The present committee regard the

HIGH SCHOOL

As laboring under the very great disadvantage of not being properly graded. If suitable rooms and sufficient means could be furnished, so that the pupils could be separated into a High and Grammar school, it is thought the arrange-

ment would be promotive of a much higher standard of scholarship. As the schools are now constituted, the Primary, in order to make room for the little ones just entering, is obliged to send up a class of the older pupils before they are fitted for the *regime* or instruction of the High school. This evil is measurably remedied by placing some of the recitations of the younger pupils in charge of those more advanced. This system is both a necessity, and if judiciously ordered, a virtue. In the present case it is a necessity, unless a permanent assistant teacher is employed. The range of scholarship is too great to classify the pupils so that one teacher can devote sufficient time and care to all. It is also a virtue, inasmuch as it initiates the older pupils into the art of giving instruction, while yet under the eye of an experienced teacher who can correct their errors and give them right views of the profession to which they may devote more or less of coming years. Or even if these assistant pupils do not intend to teach in the future, much present advantage is derived from this practice. It not only gives them self-reliance, but matures their scholarship by leading them more certainly to master the principles which they are called upon to explain. Such results are quite noticeable in those upon whom this responsibility is placed.

But little need be said specifically of the High school. From the unusual interest manifested by the public generally, it would be legitimate to infer that they were quite familiar with its history. Mr. William L. Whittemore, according to last year's report, entered upon his labors as one "whose success is almost assured, coming to us with a large experience and the highest testimonials." The circumstances, however, in which he found himself at the very beginning, were extremely unfavorable. His immediate predecessor "entered upon his duties with the school in a disorganized and demoralized condition, the two teachers preceding him having

utterly failed in discipline"; but he, as if by magic, reduced the troubled elements to the most perfect order, winning the confidence and love of every one. Of course no one could fill his place; and had he been removed by the committee there might have been some show of reason in the position taken that his successor never would and never could be acceptable. But the former teacher, notwithstanding the most earnest effort to retain him, left in the midst of the term, and Mr. Whittemore, taking his place, felt at once the difficulties of his work. Both pupils and parents, to some extent, predicted an utter failure, and brought an embarrassing pressure to bear upon the committee to discharge the teacher without delay. The most positive opinions were expressed by those who never looked in upon the management of the school. Mr. Whittemore has given special attention to the morals of his pupils as well as their habits of study; and in both these respects there has been an improvement upon the past. Seldom have we seen so many students so generally doing their own work without interfering with those around them. The committee have no desire to exalt this school to a position higher than the merits of the case will warrant, but would invite any who may feel inclined to find fault to look in upon it, and then to pass an impartial judgment.

The school is susceptible of a decided improvement in the manner of reading. The habit of "rapid reading" is acquired by the reading of fiction in an altogether undue proportion to mathematics, or any other class of books requiring close thought. Good reading is a rare attainment, and the ability to read well is worth an earnest and persistent effort.

We regret to say that some of the members of this school have spent a portion of the regular study hours in the cultivation of muscle instead of brain, and earnestly hope that parents will unite their efforts with those of the teacher and

committee to break up this truant habit where it so manifestly interferes with the best interest of the scholar.

That portion of the school that have given attention to geology, astronomy, and philosophy, have done both themselves and their teacher credit.

THE CENTRE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Has been under the care of Miss Lizzie E. Packard through the year, who has fully sustained the reputation given her in the last report. Her quiet but earnest manner has inspired like traits in her pupils. No one could desire so large a number of little ones to be kept in more perfect order. They have manifested much enthusiasm, not only in their regular studies, but also in learning isolated facts about many things, those "flowers of science," which may be brought within the comprehension of very young children. We have noticed with pleasure the care bestowed upon reading, and predict an enviable eminence in this very desirable science on the part of many of these pupils, if they persevere in the way they have begun. During the winter term the whooping cough took quite a number of children from the school, which considerably reduces the average of attendance.

THE SOUTH SCHOOL

Was taught the first two terms by Miss Addie A. Ellis, and the third term, which is still in progress, by Miss Olive B. Young. Both teachers have been faithful and successful, inspiring as much enthusiasm as could be expected in so small a school. The committee have been specially pleased to find the little ones, in addition to their regular studies, so thoroughly drilled on miscellaneous questions. Such an exercise gives life to a class, waking up dormant energies, and enabling the pupils to master "set tasks" with greater ease.

THE NORTH SCHOOL

Has been in charge of Mrs. S. D. Austin during the year. There are elements in this school which render the teacher's work not the most pleasant. With some exceptions it is a backward school. Pupils who should have mastered all the principles of arithmetic, are yet stumbling on the very threshold. And about the same is true in regard to the other sciences usually taught in schools of this grade. Mrs. Austin has labored hard to give her scholars some correct ideas of what it is to study, but not with that measure of success which would have gratified both herself and the committee. Some of them seem to understand the work of the school-room, and to teach such gives a peculiar pleasure. The government of the school, although an improvement upon the past, is susceptible of being carried to a higher degree of perfection. It requires not a little nerve, and wisdom, and patience, and self-possession, to accomplish such a work in such a school. A quiet word, given without repetition, without explanation, meaning all that it would naturally suggest, must be regarded as law, from which there is no appeal, and then the pupil will soon learn who is in authority, and who must be in subjection.

The committee noticed with very special pleasure the singing in this school. Mrs. Austin deserves great credit for the care bestowed upon this exercise. Possessing a rich and cultured voice, she has inspired her pupils, almost without exception, with the spirit of song. Much care has also been bestowed upon this branch of education in most of the other schools, and not without happy results.

The committee would urge upon parents the importance of a personal acquaintance with what transpires in the school-room, and feel sure that this most desirable end cannot be gained except by at least occasional visits on their part.

Such visits would serve not only to satisfy themselves in regard to the progress their children are making in their studies, but also very much to encourage both teacher and pupils.

At the beginning of the report reference was made to the advantage that might be gained by a different grading of the High school. Permit a suggestion in reference to all the schools in town. If it were practicable to bring all our scholars into one building, it is thought that their education could be conducted in a much more satisfactory manner, and without increased expense. It is difficult to obtain the permanent services of a first-class teacher in a very small school. Neither the compensation nor the work is large enough to fill the ambition of such. And where the pupils must recite one, two, or three in a class, it is impossible to excite in them so much interest in their studies as where there is a larger number. We do not forget that this would carry the school too far away from some families; but for such, regular means of conveyance could be provided. The thought is simply suggested, but not without premeditation, and the hope that it may start a train of thought in other minds that will lead to the adoption of measures that may in some way accrue to the benefit of our schools.

It has been suggested by one who has had large experience in the care of our schools, that both the safety and comfort of our High-school building would be much increased by exchanging the furnace in the basement for stoves in the several rooms.

The foregoing report is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

J. M. R. EATON,

Chairman.

STATISTICS.

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	TERMS.	Number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Under 5 years of age.	Over 15 years of age.
High	Mr. Wm. L. Whittemore .	1st Term, 12 Weeks . .	49	44	0	7
	“ “ “ .	2d Term, 12 “ . .	50	44	0	10
	“ “ “ .	3d Term, 14* “ . .	60	58	0	19
Centre Primary . .	Miss L. E. Packard	1st Term, 13 “ . .	56	48	4	0
	“ “	2d Term, 12 “ . .	67	59	1	0
	“ “	3d Term, 14* “ . .	53	46	0	0
North School . . .	Mrs. S. D. Austin	1st Term, 13 “ . .	27	22	0	0
	“ “	2d Term, 12 “ . .	22	20	0	0
	“ “	3d Term, 14* “ . .	29	25	0	0
South School . . .	Miss Addie A. Ellis	1st Term, 12 “ . .	17	16	1	0
	“ “	2d Term, 12 “ . .	15	14	0	0
	Miss Olive B. Young	3d Term, 14* “ . .	13	12	0	0

* Only eight weeks reported. The Schools are yet in session. All the Schools in town continue forty weeks.



